

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM NBC Nightly News STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE December 4, 1981 7:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT CIA Executive Order

JOHN CHANCELLOR: The CIA's activities were the subject of a presidential order signed today. Chief Washington correspondent Roger Mudd has more on that.

ROGER MUDD: President Reagan quietly and almost in private today gave the Central Intelligence Agency domestic freedoms it has never had before. Mr. Reagan said it's to revitalize the agency. Critics say Big Brother is back.

Gene Pell reports.

GENE PELL: The executive order sets guidelines for all American intelligence agencies, but its focus is on the CIA. The order eases some restrictions on that agency and expands its role within the U.S. It authorizes the CIA, for the first time, to conduct covert operations in this country under limited circumstances, meaning they may not be used to influence U.S. politics, policies, or the news media. It permits the CIA to collect significant foreign intelligence within the U.S. dealing with espionage and terrorism.

But the order is far more restrictive than earlier drafts that caused a storm of protest in the Senate Intelligence Committee and among civil liberties groups. The Administration had proposed giving the CIA authority to infiltrate and influence domestic groups. Under the final order, only groups composed mainly of aliens can be targeted.

JERRY BERMAN: What is important, I think, is that the Administration has retreated from many of the more dangerous proposals which had been proposed in earlier drafts of the executive order which had been leaked to the public.

OFFICES IN: WASHINGTON D.C. • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES • CHICAGO • DETROIT • AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES

Material supplied by Radio TV Reports, Inc. may be used for file and reference purposes only. It may not be reproduced, sold or publicly demonstrated or exhibited.